

REMARKS

The indicated allowability of claims 4, 24, and 26-29 subject to their being rewritten in independent form is noted with appreciation. By virtue of the foregoing amendment, claim 4 has been rewritten in independent form as new claim 60. Claims 24-29 have been retained as dependent upon claim 60 either directly or indirectly, and as such it is believed that these claims are all now allowable.

It should be noted that the Examiner has taken the position that claim 25 is non-elected. However, this claim depends upon an allowed claim and thus is believed to be properly allowable in this case.

Turning now to the rejection of claim 1, this claim has been amended so as to emphasize a facet of applicant's invention which is not at all shown or anticipated by any of the art of record and specifically patentably distinguishes over Cotterill '888. This has to do with the fact that applicant's device is movable between its latched position and its released position in response to the exertion of a force which is used to move the support platform to its desired position. Release of this force causes automatic locking. Clearly this is not true in Cotterill regardless of how this reference is read. Specifically, Cotterill requires manual release of the locking mechanism by operation of the release knob, as shown in Figure 5, before any movement can occur. This is not required with applicant's device and it is believed that claim 1 is now properly allowable. Because of this amendment to the claim, the claim is no longer generic and thus a number of the dependent claims which do not

read on species which are covered by claim 1 have been canceled.

Newly added claims 48-59 round out applicant's protection but all depend upon claims which are believed to be allowable. Further discussion of these claims is, therefore, believed to be unnecessary.

In view of the foregoing, it is most respectfully submitted that this amendment now places the case in condition for favorable action and such action is most courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

Ernest A. Beutler
Registration No. 19901
Attorney for Applicant

Harness, Dickey & Pierce
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(714) 760-6233

Docket: 2340-00341CPA
EAB/ea